

Statewide Planning Advisory Council
State Plan for Alabama Higher Education 2009-10 to 2013-14
November 10, 2008
Bailey Building, First Floor Training Room

MINUTES OF MEETING

Present: Tony Thacker (ALSDE); Priscilla Holland (UNA); Kandis Steele (DPE); George Scott (EOCC); Paul Hankins (AAICU); Janet Warren (AUM); Joan Exline (USA); Jim Farris (UM); Drew Clark (AU); Teresa Merriweather-Orok (AAMU); Margaret Gunter (ACHE); Kathleen Hall (JDCC); Margaret Pearson (ACHE); Carla Roberson (AL Power); Glenna Brown (UAB); Sue Medina (ACHE); Eddie Johnson (SDE); Ray Clenney (ADECA); Denver Betts (Athens); Steve Marlowe (AL Power); Steve Turkoski (Dothan Area Chamber); Charles Nash (UA); Pamela Arrington (ACHE); Bob Ashurst (AUM)

I. Welcome and Introductions

The Statewide Planning Advisory Council meeting was called to order by Dr. Pamela Arrington, Director of Instruction, Planning and Special Services, Alabama Commission on Higher Education at 9:30a.m.

Dr. Arrington welcomed all Council members in attendance. Council members in attendance were introduced.

Dr. Arrington then introduced Commissioner William Powell.

II. Opening Remarks

Mr. Powell thanked the Council members for their commitment to the process of developing the next state plan.

He stated that the Commissioners receive a status report on the progress the Council is making at their quarterly meetings.

He stated that higher education plays an important role in making progress in access and academic success at postsecondary institutions. Furthermore, for all Alabama citizens, the current financial crisis will add challenges in providing access and maintaining quality educational programs at postsecondary institutions.

III. Team Strategy Presentations

Bob Ashurst facilitated the team strategy presentations and the voting of the acceptance of the goals being presented.

Each team presented their key goals and strategies/actions for their priority area. The Council members voted on the acceptance of the goals presented. The results are in the following table:

The following is a ranking of the perceived importance of the goals.

<u>Goals</u>	<u>Importance Rating</u>	<u>Priority Area</u>
1. To increase the number of students majoring in STEM fields.	8.1	S.T.E.M.
2. To increase the number, preparation, and retention of teachers in STEM fields.	7.8	S.T.E.M.
3. Expand sources of higher education revenue.	7.8	Financial Resources
4. Address labor market demands/needs	7.8	Workforce Development
5. Increase graduation rates among two-year and four-year colleges and universities based on current institutional rates. (1. Students' Preparedness)	7.7	Students' Preparedness
6. Increase labor force participation rates	7.5	Workforce Development
7. To strengthen the infrastructure.	7.4	S.T.E.M.
8. Reduce higher education costs by identifying and sharing proven methods to improve efficiency.	7.4	Financial Resources
9. Build a flexible, unified Workforce education and training system that addresses occupational skills in a range of industry sectors and workers' stage in the labor market.	7.2	Workforce Development
10. Establish a PK-20 to Workforce Council, to coordinate & advocate toward a fully integrated educational system with funding and assigned administrative responsibilities, and a commitment from the membership to sustain the work.	7.2	Pre K to 20 Council
11. Decrease the percentage of students requiring remediation statewide by 20% by 2014.	7.1	Students' Preparedness
12. Reduce the state extent to which public and private colleges and universities must spend education funds to support worthy but non-educational purposes.	6.7	Financial Resources
13. Improve coordination between ACHE unified budget request and the Executive Budget Office's SMART planning/budgeting process.	6.4	Financial Resources
14. Increase the percentage of 9 th grade students graduating from high school from 66% in 2005 to 70% in 2014	6.3	Students' Preparedness
15. Increase diversity among faculty, administrators and students at colleges and universities based on current institutional rates.	6.1	Students' Preparedness
16. Expand 9th grade college- and career-readiness programs to all Alabama students by 2014	5.6	Students' Preparedness

A copy of the presentations is attached.

IV. Performance Measures and Assignment

Mr. Ashurst explained performance measures which will help track progress toward goals in the five (5) priority areas. He also assigned the Council the task to recommend a way to measure progress on achieving the priority goals and he gave the Council some guidelines that can be used.

Dr. Arrington provided information on different resources that can be used for gathering information to measure progress on achieving the goals related to the teams' priority areas.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

The next meeting of the Statewide Planning Advisory Council is scheduled for February 13, 2009.